

FEBRUARY 2020

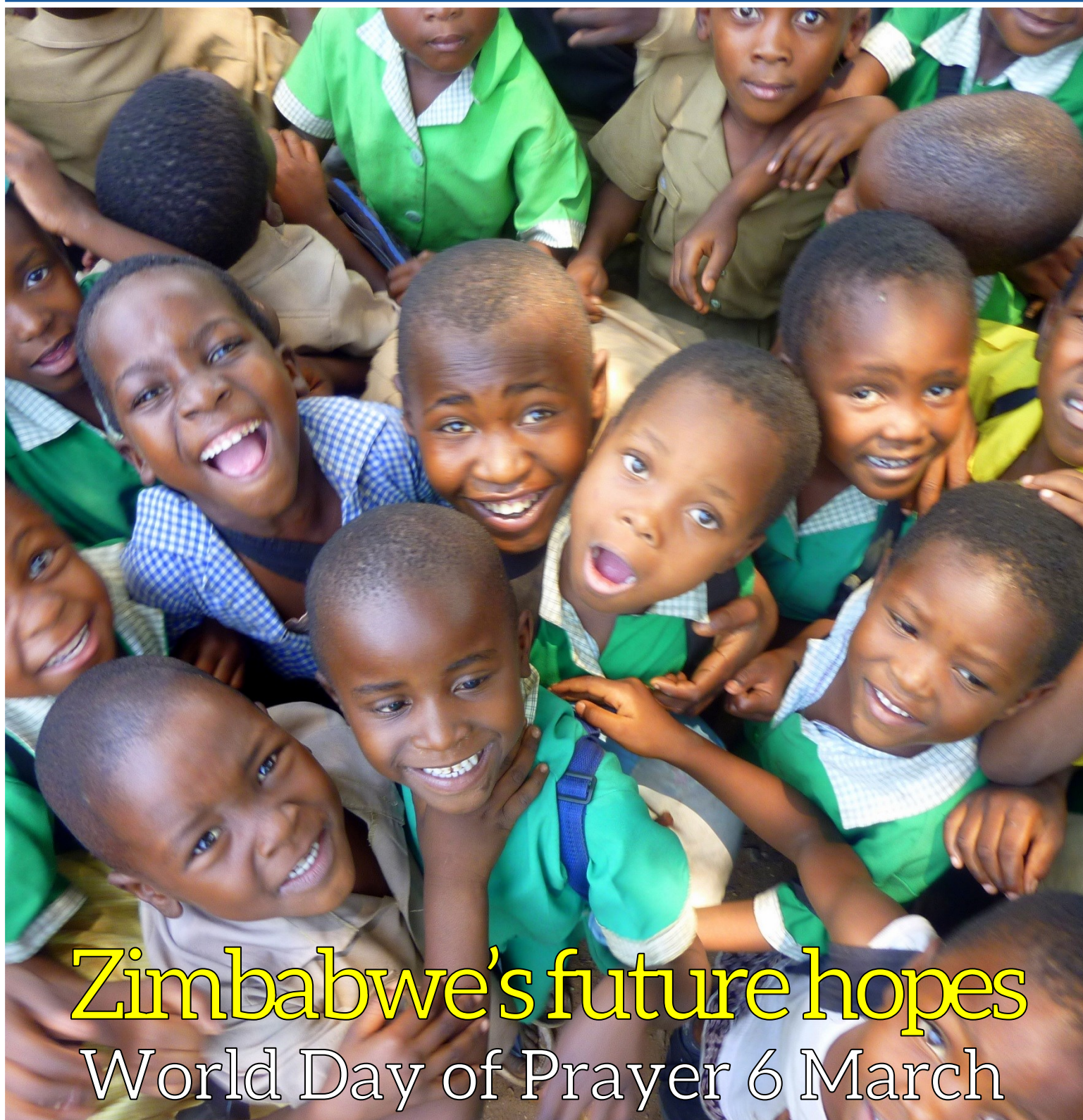
ZIMBABWE

SPIRE



HAMPTON HILL'S PARISH MAGAZINE

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Zimbabwe's future hopes

World Day of Prayer 6 March

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Meet the clergy



VICAR Rev Derek Winterburn

Derek was born in Orpington, Kent, and ordained in 1986. He served in several diverse London parishes before becoming vicar here in 2016. He is married to Sandra, a teacher, and has two children. A keen photographer, he posts a picture online every day, combining it with a daily walk or cycle ride. He can be contacted at any time other than on Mondays (his day off).

Tel: 020 8241 5904

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ASSOCIATE PRIEST Rev Jacky Cammidge

Jacky was born in Abertillery, South Wales, and ordained in 2015. She is a self-supporting minister and has been at St James's since starting her ordination training. Jacky is married to Alan, and has three children. During term-time she runs Hampton Hill Nursery School, based in the church hall, with her family.

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ASSISTANT PRIEST Canon Julian Reindorp

Julian was born in Durban, South Africa, and ordained in 1969. He has worked in parishes in East London, Chatham and Milton Keynes, and was Team Rector in Richmond until retirement in 2009. He continues to lead a busy life, often out and about on his trademark red scooter. Julian is married to Louise and has four children, three stepchildren and nine grandchildren.

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TWAM Janet Nunn 020 8979 6325

Welcome Team Janet Taylor 020 8979 0046

Letter from the Editor

This is the first edition of the *Spire* in the new decade and I wonder how many people made resolutions at New Year and are still keeping to them!

We were delighted back in December to celebrate Canon Julian Reindorp's 50 years of ministry. We are so lucky that he and his wife Louise chose Hampton Hill for their retirement. Julian is often seen about on his trusty red scooter on the way to various churches, including our own. He is also a regular contributor to our magazine on Page 7, giving his opinion on all sorts of topics.

This year the World Day of Prayer on 6 March is at St Mary's, Hampton, and has been prepared by the people of Zimbabwe. Several members of our congregation have connections with this country as you will see when you read the centrespread.

Our back page features 10 favourite places to eat and Jon Holloway has chosen a very wide range of places, including one in Hampton Hill.

Best Wishes

Janet

Janet Nunn



Cover photo: Zimbabwe's schools are key to empowering the nation's hopes and needs

SPIRE

The Spire is published nine times a year for the Parochial Church Council of St James. We make no charge for this magazine, but if you are a regular reader we hope that you will contribute towards printing costs to enable us to expand our outreach across the parish. Cheques should be made payable to the PCC of St James, Hampton Hill and sent to Spire Appeal c/o the church office.

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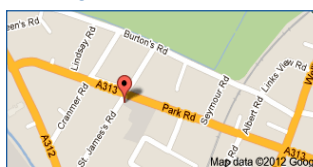


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Finding us



The church is on the corner of St James's Road and Park Road. The hall is between the church and vicarage. There is ample unrestricted parking. Buses stopping nearby include the R68, R70 and 285.

Follow us

For the very latest news go to our website or follow us on social media:

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[@stjameshamptonhill](https://www.youtube.com/stjameshamptonhill)

Clerical Capers



"Today's hymns are based on the past week's post-Brexit Pound-Euro currency fluctuations"

New connections are sometimes messy!



DEREK WINTERBURN

One way of summing up Darwin's evolution by natural selection would be *adapt or die*. We know that the dinosaurs had their golden age, but when the climate changed, 66 million years ago, their time was over. Some of their 'children' survived and became our birds. Other animals, such as mammals, were able to adapt to the changing temperatures and flourished. Life carried on.

In the business world companies often have to 'adapt or die'. Sadly, many familiar shops have closed on our high streets in the past few years as consumers' wants and needs have changed. Others have transformed themselves. *Gap* was originally just a record shop that sold jeans. *Nokia* began as a paper mill in the Finnish town of the same name. *Greggs* was notorious for its 'unhealthy' pies, but has been making changes and is in the news for its vegan sausage rolls.

Churches have to change too

What 'church' has looked like has changed dramatically over time and its journey from Jerusalem to Hampton Hill. To worship with Christians in an Orthodox church in the Middle East is to step into another world.

We believe that while 'Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever,' we are different and so our expression of faith has adapted.

Members of the Church of England have seen a series of major shifts in the past 50 years or so: modern language

liturgy and Bibles, contemporary music, women in ordained ministries, and the greater involvement of the laity in the government of the church.

The good and not-so-good

We have tried hard to accommodate those who prefer traditional things with those for whom the old ways do not work. With hindsight some innovations were not so good; they could be summed up by the cliché of the 'trendy vicar' in jeans, strumming a guitar, singing *Kum Ba Ya*.

Nevertheless as the church has changed, so has society — and it has changed away from the church. There is no doubt that religious affiliation has



changed — almost every year for the past 100 years it has declined.

Some people argue that it is because the church has changed that people no longer attend the way they used to. It is true that some places where 'time has stood still' survive; some churches have not adapted and not died. But these are 'niche' places. Rolls-Royce survives as a car-maker by being very particular - it makes just 5000 very expensive vehicles each year.

The birth of Messy Church

The church at its best seeks to connect with everyone - not just a niche 'in-group'. A while ago, Archbishop Rowan Williams championed the *Fresh Expressions* movement. The idea was to experiment

with different forms of worship. There are now over a thousand new churches, representing about 1 in 10 church attenders. Over half of *Fresh Expressions* are 'Messy Churches'.

In 2004, a small church in Cowplain, near Portsmouth, wanted to connect with the many families in the area that did not come to church on a Sunday. A group of creative people decided to use their skills to offer a way of worship that worked for all ages and was particularly welcoming for people with little knowledge of how church things worked. Once a month on a Thursday afternoon they opened for Messy Church. What began small has now spread across the world.

There is no doubt that Messy Church changes lives. Messy congregations on average are larger than traditional Church of England congregations. Robust research has shown that over half the people who attend had no previous experience of church.

Although there is some freedom about how Messy Church is put together the general pattern is to begin with some craft activities that children and adults do together (each has a connection with a Bible story), followed by a 'celebration service' and finally a meal together.

Because of all the preparation and the large numbers of volunteers needed, churches usually run Messy Church once a month. It is 'all-age' — there are aspects for children and adults; children attend with an adult.

Messy Church is now coming to Hampton Hill! We want to carry on serving those who look for a Sunday morning service, either more traditional (9:30am) or something short and informal (11:00am), but also make connections with those who cannot manage Sunday mornings, who want to come as a whole family and be *messy!*



Sundays

Holy Communion (said) 8-8:30am
Parish Communion 9:30-10:30am
Together at Eleven 11-11:35am
Perfect for young families. Followed by crafts.

Mon-Fri

(but not Tuesdays, except 25 Feb)
Morning Prayer 9:15-9:40am

Tuesdays

4, 18 (not 25) Feb
Holy Communion 9:30-10:15am
11 Feb
Holy Communion and Coffee 10-11:30am
(2nd Tuesday of the month)

Traidcraft Stall

2 February, 1 March 10:30am; 22 March 11am
Fairtrade Fortnight 24 February-8 March

What the Dickens!

Saturday 8 February 7.30pm, Church Hall
The Globe Players present a special charity performance (see page 5). Tickets £15
online at: <http://bit.ly/WhatDickens>

Ash Wednesday

26 February 9:30am & 8pm
Holy Communion + Ashing

Compline

Sundays 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Mar; 5 Apr 8pm
Night prayer for Lent

Ark Playgroup

Monday 3, 10, 24 Feb 10:15am-12:15pm
Weekly playgroup for under 5s and their parents or carers. £2 per family.

Connections

Tuesday 4 Feb 10:30am-12:30pm
Talks, hobbies, games, refreshments, plus a drop-in NHS hearing aid clinic.

Burwood Quartet Concert

Saturday 15 February 7:30pm
Mozart *Quartet in D major K575*; Frank Bridge *Three Idylls*; Purcell arr. Britten *Chacony*; Ravel String Quartet. Tickets £10 on door (under 18s free).

Cellomania! Church

Saturday 29 February 7:30pm
Andrea Mundy and Friends. 7 *Variations on Bei Mannem welche Liebe fühlen* (Beethoven) and *Double Cello Concerto in G minor* (Vivaldi). Tickets £10 on door.

Lent Course: Finding a Voice

5 Wednesdays at 7:30pm from 4 March;
5 Thursdays at 3pm from 5 March
Full details in the next issue.

Quiz Night Hall

Saturday 28 March 7pm
Join friends for this brain-teasing team game

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

Tough times ahead for



GWYNNETH LLOYD

Safaris once provided a big income for Zimbabwe, but Mugabe's rule dented trade



To me, as a child, Zimbabwe – then Southern Rhodesia – was thousands of miles away. It was a country, we learned at school, where Cecil Rhodes had explored and seen and named Victoria

Falls. We were taught it was the country where the Zulus in South Africa had fled from Shaka, the great warrior king, which European settlers saw as wonderful farming country and also rich in minerals which were later mined.

There were huge farms growing tobacco and all sorts of food, as well as raising cattle. The country supplied food to many other areas of Africa. Two lovely small cities – Salisbury (later Harare) and Bulawayo – had streets wide enough to turn a wagon round being pulled by a span of eight oxen. They were lined with beautiful jacaranda trees and flame lilies. (The flame lily is the national emblem of Zimbabwe.)

Christianity was brought to the country by missionaries from the time of Rhodes onwards. Schools were established, including a Church of Scotland missionary school where Robert Mugabe was a pupil. Many of the farms built schools for the local children, while hospitals were often also part of the missionary work.

Craft centres were encouraged, particularly in rural areas. Weaving, beadwork and carving are commonplace. Many Zimbabweans do wonderful carvings in soapstone. These are very popular with tourists as are woven rugs.

Later, as in most colonised African countries, freedom for the indigenous people became seen as the way forward. Strife broke out between them and the settlers. All wanted independence of some sort in the

Zimbabwe is at a crossroads. The autocratic rule of Robert Mugabe may be over, but will the new President plot a new path or continue as before? As the country falls under the spotlight of the World Day of Prayer, Gwynneth Lloyd assesses what the future may hold.

1960s. Once a unilateral declaration of independence was declared in 1965 by the minority white government in Rhodesia, resistance from the black opposition grew.

I visited Zimbabwe in 1966 on a camping holiday with a friend. We were awed by the historical sites of Cape Zimbabwe, great structures built of granite 900 years earlier. They were built by people who were part

of an empire which lasted from 1220 to 1450 – a sophisticated civilisation of people trading in gold, ivory and cattle with the Portuguese and Arab traders.

We visited Victoria Falls and spent several days in a game reserve. The big five, lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and Cape buffalo, were seen with ease, with some huge herds.

Kariba dam, a huge man-made

lake for a hydro-electric project was amazing. There were vast open spaces, beautiful mountains, and everywhere we went we were met by the friendliest of people

I visited the country again in the early 1970s by which time my father had been appointed to run the chrome mines there. It was still a beautiful country, but the fighting made life very hard for both black and white people.



Peace came in 1980 after a conference in London chaired by Lord Carrington. Southern Rhodesia became Zimbabwe. Hopes were high and the first elections were in February 1980.

Robert Mugabe, above, became Prime Minister with Joshua Nkomo, another prominent leader, and his rival, also in government.

Several people in St James's congregation have memories of Zimbabwe. When I first arrived I met John and Betty Rainbow, who had not only worked in Zimbabwe, but met my father.

Dick and Mary Wilde lived there for two years after Dick retired in 1992. He joined a Bulawayo college and taught electrical engineering, finding it enjoyable and rewarding. His students were hungry for knowledge to help develop their country.

Meanwhile, Mary lived 'a life of complete leisure'. She was not used to having servants to clean, cook and manage her garden and never felt comfortable. She said she spent a lot of time sitting on her veranda or going swimming.

They, like me, have memories of a beautiful country. Grand old

Victoria Falls are still a big draw for tourists, but a turbulent period has cost it visitors



Zimbabwe



Finding their voice: calls for equality still largely ignored

colonial hotels in the mountains and lovely spacious cities. They managed to see much of the country, visiting many tourist spots. Dick joined a group on a raft just below the Victoria Falls, setting off down the Zambezi for a fun run. Any tourist who fell off the raft was helped back on by another tourist, though there was professional supervision!

Dick recalled the discipline in the church. Mothers with crying babies received a stern glance from the minister and they hastily took the baby outside till the tears had stopped.

What saddened them was the poverty many Zimbabweans were

beginning to experience. Most were not yet getting the promised benefits from independence.

The potential of this wonderful country was beginning to disappear with bad management, warring factions and poverty. The Wildes felt it was time to leave in 1994.

My father had retired in the mid 1980s, deciding to return to South Africa as he felt there was no future for the white man in Zimbabwe. Sadly, many white people are now leaving South Africa, feeling there is no place for them in their country now.

Zimbabwe has changed markedly



Mary and Dick Wilde outside their home in Bulawayo

in recent years. I have worked with some lovely nurses who are now settled in Britain. Their stories are of people living close to the poverty line, having to walk long distances for water, many without electricity.

Universal education was promised at independence, but many children in rural areas cannot afford or get to schools. Even so, literacy rates are among the highest in Africa.

Many of the schools and hospitals opened by missionaries are still in use today. The current constitution allows people to gather for worship. Christianity is the main religion (80%) with others following Islam, Judaism and traditional African religions.

A land reform programme begun in 2000 has resulted in many white farmers being forced off their land, with ownership transferred to black Zimbabweans. The productivity of these farms dropped drastically.

Zimbabwe is now an importer rather than exporter of basic daily foods. The economy of the country continues to worsen and there is galloping inflation. The currency is the Zimbabwe Dollar, but few can afford to buy much.

In December last year the United Nations said man-made starvation was 'slowly making its way into Zimbabwe' and most households in the country are unable to obtain enough food to meet their basic needs. A lot of Zimbabweans cross into South Africa looking for work.

Robert Mugabe was forced to resign in 2017 and died in September 2019, aged 95. He and his wife Grace were mired in corruption, clinging on to power by fixing elections.

His successor, Emmerson Mnangagwa, known as 'the crocodile' because of his political cunning, promised an end to corruption, but little seems to have changed. His latest action is removing street names relating to the colonial past, renaming many of them after him.

Women make up half of the population and play an important role in the socio-economic life of the country. Many head the household as men work away. They still face barriers to education and executive jobs. Children often live with grandparents due to the death of a parent from HIV or other causes.

World Day of Prayer service

There is much more to this country. Perhaps we will learn something of this from the World Day of Prayer. The people of Zimbabwe certainly need our prayers. Join me on **Friday 6 March at St Mary's Church, Hampton, at 2pm.**

Around the Spire

John climbed high in a long and successful life

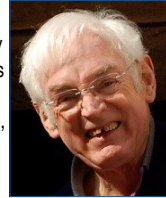
ST JAMES'S CHURCH

was packed with 120 family and friends to give thanks for the life of John Meredith Smith, who died, aged 82, on Christmas Eve at Hammersmith Hospital.

Moya, their two sons Gareth and Lewis, and Helen Derry, a close friend, all paid tribute to different aspects of John's life.

John and Moya met when studying at London University and they were married for 55 years. They marked their Golden Wedding with a holiday in Italy and by also renewing their wedding vows in our church.

John and Moya have been faithful members of St James's for



40 years, latterly mostly attending the 8am service.

A mathematician by trade, John was the church's treasurer for 10 years in the 1990s.

He loved the outdoors and was an avid walker and mountain climber. Nearer to home, John was a volunteer for the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks visitor centre at the Pheasantry, keen to share his knowledge of nature conservation in the park.

He will be deeply missed. We remember him as a quiet, cheerful man, happy to discuss nature, maths, computers and history.

Janet Nunn

Theatre show for Malawi

SARA BUTTERFIELD is arranging a family 2500km sponsored bike ride near the shores of Lake Malawi in April.

She, husband Chris, and their son Ambrose, will be taking part, from 6-16 April, and the money raised will go to African Vision Malawi. The charity supports children and vulnerable people to become healthy, educated

and self-sufficient. It has a training village to enable some of the very poorest to learn a trade. Participants will cycle 50km a day, with rest days where there will be chances to visit the charity's projects.

Riders need to cover the cost of the trip and to help them *The Globe Players* will be performing their wonderful play about the life of Charles Dickens. *What the Dickens!* can be seen on **Saturday 8 February at 7:30pm**. Tickets cost £15 and can be bought online at <http://bit.ly/WhatDickens>. For more information about it please email sara.butterfield@africanvision.org.uk.



50 years of serving God's people

FOR A PRIEST who has always embraced other faiths, it was fitting that in December Canon Julian Reindorp shared his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood with Pope Francis!

To mark the date, Julian presided at St James's on 15 December and afterwards shared a cake and bubbly with members in the hall.

Julian was ordained deacon by Rt Rev Trevor Huddleston, Bishop of Stepney, at All Saints, Poplar, in December 1969. Over the ensuing

years he served as a parish priest in Chatham and Milton Keynes, before coming to Richmond in 1992.

Julian 'retired' in 2009, but is working just as hard providing cover for vacancies and holiday relief, officiating at funerals, as well as presiding at St James's and singing in our choir.

Julian has lost none of his energy, humanity and concern for others and we feel blessed to have him at St James's.



Faithful fun at church



DANI ROBERTSON

about what might be in the box, even giving a knock to see what clues may emerge.

The children look and listen intently, with growing anticipation of what could be in the box. Finally, when the children's patience is about to run out, the teacher opens the box to reveal each story prop, one at a time.

The children have the task of wondering what each item could be and how it could come together into a story.

The story always starts the same way

Once the stage is set the teacher begins the story told by Jesus with the same words that become familiar to the children with each story: 'There once was someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him talking about a kingdom, but it was not like the kingdom they lived in. It was not like any kingdom they had ever visited. It was not even like any kingdom anyone had ever heard of. They couldn't help it. They had to ask him what the Kingdom of Heaven was like.' Then the parable begins.

When we went through the Parable of the Good Shepherd, the children showed great concern about a sheep that had been left behind in 'the dangerous place', but a sigh of relief passed through the circle as the Good Shepherd went back to rescue the sheep.

After the story finishes, we wonder about what it could all mean. Each item is packed away with care in the golden box and children are released to contemplate the story in their own way with different response stations set up around the room.

Children may use play dough to sculpt a figure from the story, we had some lovely sheep sculpted, or they may choose to draw a picture that reminds them of the story, like the tree that grew from the mustard seed. During this time the guides are available to answer questions about the story and ask the children how their art reminds them of what they heard or what it means.

Nurturing their time with God

Children quietly experience the story as a group, but are asked to respond individually through their work with a range of creative materials. This environment seeks to nurture each child's personal relationship with God and his word in a safe and open space.

We've experienced the Parable of the Good Shepherd, the Mustard Seed, the Sower, and the Leaven. More are sure to come as St James's uses Godly Play to help children discover the depths of God, ourselves, one another and the world around us.

Children sitting on the floor in a circle around a teacher holding a mysterious golden box ready to hear a special story called a parable; this is the exciting story time called Godly Play that St James's has been using since November.

Godly Play is what Jerome Berryman calls his interpretation of Montessori religious education. Berryman says, 'It is an imaginative approach for working with children, an approach that supports, challenges, nourishes, and guides their spiritual quest. It is more akin to spiritual guidance than to what we generally think of as religious education.'

Godly Play is a type of storytelling different to many other programmes that take a fun, active approach to the story. It has been described as a 'deeply respectful experience with scripture'. We tell stories in fun and interactive ways weekly during our 11am family service, but we've decided to incorporate this quiet, contemplative type of storytelling twice a month to give children yet another way to creatively encounter God.

We began our Godly Play endeavour with Jesus's Parable, but there are many other Godly Play stories.

What's inside the gold box?

All of the school-age children go into a separate room with two teachers or 'guides' for a portion of the service while parents stay to consider more adult teaching.

Children are encouraged to enter the room in a calm manner and quietly settle into a circle around a teacher who places a gold box in the middle of the circle.

The gold box symbolises how precious the story inside is because gold is so precious and valuable. The teacher wonders aloud



A range of crafts reflect on the story

Seeing trees for the wood



LAURENCE SEWELL

Broadly, there are two types of forest certification: i) certification of forest management, which assesses whether forests are being managed according to a specified set of standards; and ii) certification of the chain of custody (CoC) which verifies that certified material is identified or kept separate from non-certified or non-controlled material through the production process, from the forest to the final consumer.

To label an end-product as certified, both forest management certification and chain-of-custody certification are required. Today, there are more than 50 certification schemes addressing a wide variety of forest types, tenure and management regimes.

The FSC which pioneered forest certification in the early 1990s is one of the better known certification organisations that assesses the quality of forest management and production against a set of standards covering sustainability, forest degradation and deforestation.

It is an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organisation established in 1993 to promote responsible management of the world's forests. The FSC does this by setting standards on forest products, along with certifying and labelling them as eco-friendly.

Another is the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the largest certification framework in terms of forest area, accounting for about two-thirds of the total certified area worldwide, which promotes sustainable forest management through independent third party certification. It is considered the certification system of choice for small forest owners.

Did you notice the symbol FSC on page 2 of the *Spire*? This is the logo of the Forest Stewardship Council that appears on wood, or a wood-based product such as paper, to signify that it is made from trees that come from FSC certified forests or from post-consumer waste.

We have become increasingly aware of the value of our forests, especially since the climate change debate has gained traction, both as a renewable resource when sustainably managed, and in environmental terms through carbon sequestration (the natural process capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere) and soil, water and biodiversity conservation.

Interest in sourcing wood and paper-based goods produced in a sustainable manner is growing. Concerned consumers, retailers, businesses, communities, governments, and other groups increasingly want to know that in buying and consuming these products we are making positive social and environmental contributions.

The concept of forest certification arose as a way of addressing public concerns about tropical deforestation and forest degradation, to ensure forests are sustainably managed through proper extraction and the eco-system is protected, while increasing direct benefits to forest communities and people more widely.

Forest certification

Most forest management certification standards address a wide range of economic, social, environmental and technical aspects of forest management, including the well-being of workers and of communities living in and around the forest area subject to certification.

Costs and benefits of certification

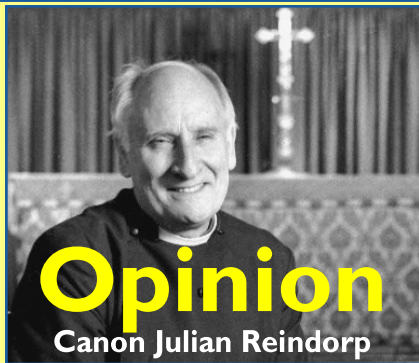
There are both direct and indirect costs in pursuing certification for forest managers and businesses which whilst not always translating into higher prices compared with uncertified products, are far outweighed by the benefits to the environment, greater efficiency in forest operations, and access to markets.

It can help reduce reputation risks, aligning companies with their stakeholders' values, and make organisations along the supply chain (from forest owners to retailers) more resilient to changing business conditions and help secure sustainable supplies.

Certification has been shown to be a valuable tool for positioning products in the marketplace. In the paper and packaging sector, certification is the norm rather than the exception today in many major consumer markets. We are no exception in publishing the *Spire*.



Unregulated logging is widespread



Opinion

Canon Julian Reindorp

SCHOOL FUNDING

It is always difficult to find the facts in a world of claim and counter claim. We are told more money is going into state education than ever before. The National Education Union said in October that 83% of schools will still be worse off in 2020 than in 2015, and the *Sunday Times* suggested that 90% of the new money was going into Conservative constituencies.

Locally a secondary school broke up a week early for Christmas, partly to save money, but also to provide a longer break for very pressed staff in the hope of attracting more teachers next year. A primary school in Leeds in one of the 1% most deprived areas in Britain opened on 23 December to give their 350 pupils and their families a Christmas lunch and present for each child — many would not otherwise receive one. The cost was partly donated by local businesses. The Department of Work and Pensions says 12% of children are now suffering severe deprivation.

OUR NEED FOR NURSES

There are 323,00 registered nurses in our NHS in England, and 146,000 doctors. Nurse vacancies, now at 43,000, are part of a global shortage. The government has promised 50,000 more, though in effect only 31,000 'new' nurses. There have been dramatic falls in the numbers of nurses applying for training, down from 53,000 to 40,000 in three years. What is also clear is that with an ageing population and growing mental health needs we need ever more highly trained nurses.

7 MINISTERS IN 4 YEARS

I hope by the time you read this the number has not gone up to eight Secretaries of State for Work and Pensions in four years. The department's annual budget is £185bn and it is the government's biggest spending department — covering pensions, disability, unemployment and housing benefits. It includes the controversial Universal Credit scheme, Personal Independence Payments and the divisive benefit cuts.

With a stepson with a disability and some 40 more people with whom I'm in a trustee relationship, this department and its policies affect us as a family. The evidence suggests that as Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments are introduced, local foodbank use rises 30%. Three reforms could make huge a difference: initial payments within five days, not five weeks, as now; a less hostile assessment process, in which two-thirds of appeals are accepted; and the benefit cuts introduced as part of austerity gradually reversed. The poorest and most disabled deserve more from society.

KNIGHTHOODS

Why was Lewis Hamilton not knighted after being Formula One's world champion driver for the sixth time? Is motor racing a less socially acceptable sport than cricket, I wonder? A friend suggested it might be because Hamilton is a tax exile! I was, however, delighted that two cricketers were knighted for services to the sport in their home countries, the outstanding West Indian batsmen, in the 60s, 70s and 80s, Clive Lloyd and Gordon Greenidge.

IS YOUR DOG A TIGER?

Farmers in Karnataka, South West India, frustrated that monkeys were eating their crops, now paint black stripes on their dogs to make them look like tigers. They hope this may scare away the monkeys.

THE TWO POPES

Anyone interested in the future of the church would enjoy the film, *The Two Popes*. Pope Benedict the 16th, a conservative by nature, discusses the future of the church with the Pope to-be Francis, a radical, as Benedict reveals he is going to resign. We see glimpses of two consecutive papal conclaves — 2005 when Benedict was elected and 2012 when Francis was elected.

Our help for those in greatest need



DENNIS WILMOT

The Lent Appeal started our 2019 charity collections with money for our CMS partners, David and Shelley Stokes in northern Argentina, and for the Bishop of

London's appeal fighting Modern Day Slavery. Money for the slavery appeal was possible because the PCC agreed to provide £1500 from its budget to support Welcare and Bishop Wand School, two local Christian causes.

A very generous personal donation of £2,250, including gift aid, went equally to CMS, (the Stokes) and to Milo hospital.

These two benefactions are good examples of a policy of providing support where we have a personal connection. The Stokes have visited our church and provide a regular newsletter, whilst Drs Hilary and Andrew Murray visited in 2018 and are now volunteering their services at Milo hospital. You can see their blog at brechdan.wordpress.com.

The personal connection is likely to bring more engagement and therefore more support. When Milo hospital asked for money to buy a portable ultrasound, a generous personal donation and £500 of church charity funds helped the hospital reach its target.

A raffle and auction on St James's Day, a wine tasting and sales, plus personal donations, led to donations for Milo hospital (as above), the London Churches Refugee Fund (LCRF), Tools with a Mission and ALMA (Angola London and Mozambique Association). At Harvest we again supported the Upper Room.

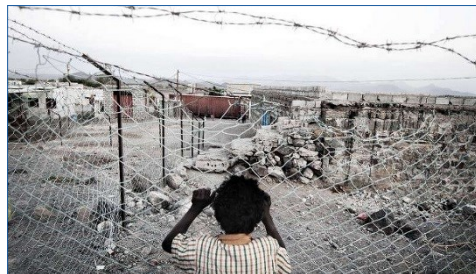
Whilst some of the donations to our charities were down on last year, the overall total, excluding Christian Aid and The Children's Society, was up by £1,900 to £10,048. The collections for Christian Aid and The Children's Society



The 2020 Lent Appeal will help communities respond to emergencies

were also up on the previous year, and this was particularly good news for Christian Aid where most of the door to door collecting was replaced with a Dream Auction.

In 2020 we are supporting two new causes, one linking our parish to a parish in northern Mozambique, and an ALMA London Diocesan appeal: Wheels for Climate Change Emergencies. More information will be provided in due course. Let us hope and pray for generosity again, but most of all thank you for all your support in 2019.



Asylum seekers, often demonised, are helped by the LCRF

From Florida for baptism



Four-year-old Natalia Gladi Romanello-Patey, granddaughter of Elizabeth and Dennis Wilmot, was baptised on 22 December. Natalia lives in Florida with her parents, William and Karima, and elder sister Gabriella, and was baptised here while visiting for Christmas.

REGISTERS

NOVEMBER

FUNERALS

12 George Arthur Golden, 64, Teddington

13 Victor Lionel Scott, 82, Thames Ditton

INTERMENT OF ASHES

23 Roger Geoffrey Godwin, 71, Hampton

DECEMBER

BAPTISM

22 Natalia Gladi Romanello-Patey, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

WEDDING BLESSING

22 Zhang Chi and Siyuan Liu, Beijing, China

FUNERALS

12 Victor Hannaford, 94, Surbiton

16 Isabel Margaret Bowyer, 99, Thames Ditton

17 Geoffrey Bulmer Stonehouse, 59, Hampton Hill

24 Jane Frances Bellamy, 77, Teddington



Food, glorious food



JON HOLLOWAY

It's fair to say I value and enjoy my food, it's one of the reasons I run as much as I do, and anyone following me on Instagram @SailorBaeJon may have noticed the occasional food post, #Yumsk! So when asked for my ten food favourites it was some task. I have a job that gets me out and about and I'm extremely lucky to eat in some very decent places, but there's more to food than posh nosh; every place has its own special atmosphere, a particular meal or dish, and the resulting unique memories.

Truffles, Fareham

Scene of many a birthday and wedding anniversary celebration, this was our favourite restaurant for years, especially during LBK – Life Before Kids! Linda and I started our married life together in Fareham and enjoyed the cosy and romantic atmosphere of Truffles. The menu was small, just 8 starters, 8 mains and 8 puddings that changed every couple of months and featured traditional French food, all freshly prepared by Alain who would always come out and chat with customers.



Still and West, Old Portsmouth



Another favourite from years gone by, situated on Portsmouth harbour mouth, perfect for watching the world – and ships – go by. Very popular in the summer, but worth the wait as their fish and chips were the best. As a Fuller's pub there was always something decent behind the bar too.

Fauds Restaurant, Houston, Texas

A somewhat eclectic venue, with no menu to speak of, but famous locally for its Grilled Cheese (possibly somehow the best and worst cheese on toast you might ever try), and the informally and fondly named Roadkill, a mix of shrimp and as yet unidentified meats, plus very generous-pour cocktails.



The place is dimly lit in that American style, probably for good reason, and there's usually a bunch of merry folk seated around the grand piano singing along to the Houston equivalent of Frank Sinatra — we're still not sure if they ever go to bed.

Twentymans Ice Cream, Allonby



Located on the Cumbrian coast, and with a population of 500, Allonby is somewhat off the beaten track. However, without a shadow of a doubt, Twentymans serves up the best ice cream on the planet, and what better way to enjoy an ice cream than with a bracing Irish Sea howler coming in hard off the coast; if you're lucky the rain will hold off for a while too. A rare treat, but one we try to fit in when visiting family in nearby Carlisle.

Samy's Curry Restaurant, Singapore

A traditional banana leaf restaurant, no fuss, no frills, just great food. Famous for decent fish head curry (the cheeks really are the best bits) and a menu that basically reads 'Specialised in North & South Indian Cuisine', served straight from the pot to the table, but don't ask for too much detail. A good portion of Raita is also recommended to combat the liberally-applied chilli, plus a chilled Tiger beer (or two) for the full Singapore experience is a must.



Jovanni's Cafe, Hampton Hill



Sometimes there's a real need for a decent cooked breakfast with all the trimmings and a cup of tea that you can stand your spoon up in. We're lucky to have so much local choice. For a long time I've been a great fan of Jovanni's. Happy and friendly, and with a great Full English or Veggie breakfast always ready to go, they have to make it on to the list.

Gastro Kitchen Jun Boo, Tsukuba, Japan

Jun Yatabe studied in Leeds and then perfected his craft under the tutelage of the Roux family at the Waterside Inn in Bray (famous for holding three Michelin Stars).



The result is a super restaurant about an hour out of Tokyo that features a menu of Anglo-Japanese comfort food with the occasional Yorkshire twist. Truly a hidden gem, but well worth the effort if you find yourself out that way.

Salcombe Coffee Company, Salcombe

Coffee shop by day, boutique restaurant in the evening, the site of many a sneaky cappuccino when the girls are off shopping or on a rainy day, but mostly remembered for the huge bacon and egg sandwiches, a food highlight of our frequent family holidays in Salcombe. More bacon than is probably healthy, two fresh local eggs and two slices of inch thick proper white bread, and HP sauce, of course – a guy could not ask for much more.



Les 110 de Taillevent, Cavendish Square, London



Discovered a couple of years ago, this charming French restaurant situated on Cavendish Square never fails to deliver a stunning meal, but definitely falls in the special treat bracket. The menu changes by the season, but retains a few signature dishes (I highly recommend the Spelt Lobster Risotto), and there is always a six-course tasting menu on offer. Les 110 is also famous for a wine cellar that features 1,500 labels, with 110 wines available by the glass, each matched to the various dishes.

Grandma and Grandad's, Lee on Solent



Saved for the end, and not strictly a restaurant, but simply one of the greatest meals when we would visit on the occasional Sunday was Grandma's Roast Beef. Always a perfectly prepared joint, with the best Yorkshire puddings, done in the large pudding tin, with a big jug of proper gravy, mounds of veggies, and everyone squeezed in around their dining room table. You can't beat a good bit of home-cooked food, and money really can't buy such happy memories.